



The Canaller

National Parks Week Celebrated with Activities

The C&O Canal National Historical Park encourages children of all ages to participate in the special activities planned for National Parks Week. The theme of this year's celebration is "Connecting Our Children to America's National Parks." This event is scheduled for the week of April 22 to 30. The canal will commemorate the occasion by hosting a variety of family-friendly events including one-on-one fishing lessons.

National Parks Week Events on the C&O Canal

- 4/22 *Canal Kids
Georgetown Visitor Center
noon to 1:30 p.m.
- 4/23 *Monocacy Elementary School Concert
Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center
1 to 2 p.m.
- *Educational Fishing Day, Fletcher's Cove
noon to 4 p.m. Reservations required for
fishing lessons. Call 202-653-5190.
- 4/29 *Canal Kids, Georgetown Visitor Center
noon to 1:30 p.m.
- *Widewater Ceremony, 2:30 p.m.
Near Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center



A park ranger assists visitors in their discovery of nature. The C&O Canal has several family-oriented events planned for National Parks Week.

focusing on the historical, natural, and recreational opportunities available on the canal.

Another highlight will be the annual Douglas Hike sponsored by the C&O Canal Association. Each year the group organizes

a walk to commemorate the important 1954 hike led by U.S. Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas. The 1954 hike brought needed awareness to the idea of preserving the canal as a park at a time when it was threatened by development. This hike will traverse the newly completed Widewater section of the towpath just below Great Falls in Maryland. The eagerly anticipated ribbon cutting ceremony will take place on Saturday, April 29, at 2:30 p.m.

The park will partner with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the American Fly Fishing Trade Association, the American

Sportfishing Association, and Discovery Creek Education Center in a fishing outreach effort. Children can receive individual fishing lessons with all the necessary equipment provided free of charge on Sunday, April 23, from noon to 3 p.m. at Fletcher's Cove. Among other scheduled activities, kids can touch a sturgeon (fish) or take part in a scavenger hunt.

National Parks Week is the perfect time to experience the canal. Even if you do not take part in the organized activities, everyone is encouraged to come out to the park and enjoy its beauty and history. Whether you take a stroll, view nature, become a junior ranger, or ride on a canal boat, a world of discoveries and memories is waiting in the park. All activities are free and open to the public, although some require reservations. Call the Great Falls Tavern at 301-767-3714 for more information.

Kathy Kupper
Supervisory Park Ranger

The week will begin with the interactive Canal Kids program for children, ages 5 to 10. This fun event will be held on two Saturdays, April 22 and 29 at the Georgetown Visitor Center. Children will have the chance to experience what life was like for kids who lived and worked on canal boats. They will sample 19th century clothing, music, chores, education, and games.

On Sunday, April 23, the chorus from Monocacy Elementary School will give a concert on the stationary Great Falls canal boat. Each year the students from the school spend the entire week



From the Superintendent

As the winter melts into spring, it is time to get out and get active again. The C&O Canal is a wonderful place to begin your springtime activities. While hiking or biking along the towpath, take the time to drink in springtime—listen for the birds chirping and sounds of running water, or just simply enjoy the warmth of the sunlight on a family picnic. Don't forget to take your camera along and photograph your priceless memories with family and friends.

This issue of *The Canaller*, we are highlighting National Parks Week and encouraging outdoor recreation in the national parks. In addition to hiking the towpath, you may want to challenge yourself to a section of the Billy Goat Trail in Great Falls.

Several other activities are planned for the springtime months in the park. April marks the opening of Georgetown's canal boat rides, and these will continue all the way through October. The 17th Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup is also scheduled in April, and in May, Great Falls will host the King Park Concert Band as well as the Organ Grinders.

With the many opportunities the C&O Canal offers for the springtime, there is something for everyone in your family to enjoy. So get up and get out to the park, and I will see you on the towpath.

Kevin Brandt
Superintendent

Experience History by Way of a Canal Boat

The trip from Cumberland to Georgetown by canal boat was a long and demanding journey. Today, you have the opportunity to experience an entertaining and relaxing one-hour mule-drawn ride on a canal boat.

Park rangers in period clothing demonstrate canal operations and describe the history and life of families who lived and worked along the canal during the 1870s. Mule-drawn canal boat rides begin and end from Lock 4 near 1057 Thomas Jefferson Street, N.W. in Georgetown. The visitor center is closed Mondays and Tuesdays.

Tickets for individuals are sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Reservations may be made for groups of ten or more. Schedules are subject to change.

Call the Georgetown Visitor Center at 202-653-5190 to confirm dates and times or for additional information. Metered parking is available on the streets of Georgetown, and a parking garage is located in the Foundry Building on 30th Street, between M and K Streets.



2006 Boat Schedule

Spring: April 6 to June 30

Wed., Thurs., and Fri.

11 a.m. & 3 p.m.

Sat. and Sun.

11 a.m., 1:30 & 3 p.m.

Summer: July 1 to Aug. 31

Wed., Thurs., and Fri.

11 a.m., 1:30 & 3 p.m.

Sat. and Sun.

11 a.m., 1:30, 3 & 4:30 p.m.

Fall: Sept. 1 to Oct. 29

Wed., Thurs., and Fri.

11 a.m. & 3 p.m.

Saturdays and Sundays

11 a.m., 1:30 & 3 p.m.

Fares

\$8 Adults

\$6 Seniors (62+)

\$5 Children (4-14)

Info: 202-653-5190

Visit the C&O Canal
website at
www.nps.gov/choh

Eastern National Bookstore

Eastern National provides quality educational products and services to the visitors to the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park. Income derived from these activities is used to aid the National Park Service. Since 1947, Eastern National has donated over \$77 million to the National Park Service.

The following items are suggested to help you remember your visit or to enhance your understanding of the canal. Larger selections of items are available in all visitor centers. For ordering information, call 301-767-3714.

Boy Scouts of America Commemorative C&O Canal Trail Patch - This commemorative patch designed by the Boy Scouts of America can be purchased as a reminder of one's visit to the park or as recognition of biking or hiking the entire 184.5 miles of the canal. Item 323314, \$4.00



C&O Canal Company Medallion and Commemorative Bronze Coin - The front of this bronze coin is adorned with a replica historical canal boat that includes the canal's years of operation. The reverse side of the coin displays the historical seal of the C&O Canal Company and serves as a perfect reminder of your visit to the park. Item #414205, \$8.50

The C&O Canal Companion - A comprehensive guide of the canal and significant features. Item #2-47447, \$17.95

C&O Canal Tin Cup - Decorated with the emblem of the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park, these replica tin cups are an attractive and useful reminder of your visit to the canal. Cups can be purchased in black, blue, green, and red. Item #323270, \$6.00

Paw Paw Tunnel Wood Carving - A beautiful illustration of the Paw Paw Tunnel designed on wood; on the back, a brief history of the tunnel. This item serves as an excellent token for any visitor enthralled with this engineering marvel. Item #414831, \$17.00

Rita Knox
Park Ranger



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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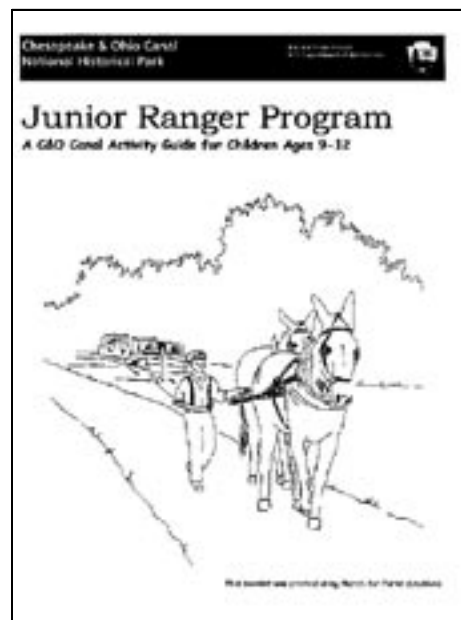
Chief of Interpretation:
Bill Justice

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Become a Junior Ranger!

Are you interested in exploring? Do you like history or nature? Would you like to learn more about the national park that belongs to you? Children near the ages 6-8 and 9-12 have the opportunity to join the National Park Service family as a Junior Ranger. If you are interested, stop by one of the visitor centers for a free age-appropriate activity booklet and complete a series of activities during your park visit. Share your written answers with a park ranger and receive an official Junior Ranger badge and Junior Ranger certificate.

To be a C&O Canal National Historical Park Junior Ranger is a very special privilege and honor because not everyone who visits the park becomes a Junior Ranger. Both children and adults benefit by sharing the fun of becoming a Junior Ranger. Join today!



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA



Winch House at Dam 4, mile 84.7
Photo taken by volunteer Phil Ruth

C&O Canal Association

The C&O Canal Association is a citizens' association concerned with the conservation of the natural and historical environment of the C&O Canal and the Potomac River Basin. The Association supports the National Park Service in its efforts to preserve and promote the 184.5 mile towpath and the open spaces within the C&O Canal National Historical Park. Membership is open to all.

Association activities include hikes, bike and canoe trips, a level walkers program, and special projects to support park activities. The Association provides opportunities for fellowship and education as well. Members receive a quarterly newsletter.

For more information about the C&O Canal Association, activities, and special projects, visit the www.candocanal.org or call 301-983-0825.

C&O Canal Association Membership

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____ Phone Number: _____

Membership Rates (circle rate):

Individual \$15 Family \$20 Patron \$25

My C&O Canal Association badge should bear this name:

Second badge name (Patron or Family Membership)

Mail to:
C&O Canal Association
P.O. Box 366
Glen Echo, Md. 20812-0366

Recreation Along the Towpath

The C&O Canal “is a refuge, a place of retreat, a long stretch of quiet and peace ...”

--Justice William O. Douglas

The C&O Canal National Historical Park is one of the largest and most diverse parks within the National Park system. It provides an expansive array of recreational opportunities.

In general, the surface of the towpath is an even hard-packed dirt trail ideal for hiking and biking. The towpath is the trail once used by the mules that pulled the canal boats.

Biking is one way to see the canal. See page 8 for regulations and information.

Boating is restricted to electric motors at Big Pool, Little Pool, and canal waters between Lock 68 (Old Town) and Town Creek Aqueduct. Personal flotation devices are required by the State of Maryland. Canoeing and kayaking are permitted from mile 0 to 22. Canoeing on the Potomac River can be hazardous and should only be done under the direct supervision of an experienced adult canoeist. **To hear a taped message regarding river conditions in the lower Potomac Valley, call 703-260-0305.**

Hiker-biker campsites are located along the towpath about every five to seven miles. All 30 sites are primitive and are free on a first-come, first-served basis. Facilities at the campsites include a chemical toilet, picnic table, and grill. Drinking water is

usually available from mid-April through November 15. Visitors are advised to bring water. Stay at hiker-biker campsites is limited to one night and six people per site.

Drive-in campsites are located at McCoy's Ferry, Fifteenmile Creek, and Spring Gap. Primitive sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis at a fee of \$10 per night per site. Camping is limited to eight persons, two vehicles, and two tents per campsite. Recreational vehicles no longer than 20 feet are allowed. No hookups are available. Facilities at the campsites include a chemical toilet, picnic table, and grill. Drinking water is usually available from mid-April through November 15. Visitors are advised to bring water.

Group sites are also available at McCoy's Ferry, Fifteenmile Creek, and Spring Gap for \$20 per night. No more than 35 people are allowed. Primitive camping is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Walk-in campgrounds that have adjacent parking are Antietam Creek and Paw Paw. Sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis for a fee of \$10 per night per site. Camping is limited to eight persons, two vehicles, and two tents per campsite. Facilities at the campsites include a chemical toilet, picnic table, and grill. Drinking water is usually available from mid-April through November 15. Visitors are advised to bring water.

Golden Access & Golden Age Passport holders receive a 50 percent

discount on camping fees where applicable. Passports can be purchased at Great Falls Tavern Fee Booth.

Marsden Tract group camping is available for overnight use by organized groups. Advance permit required. The fee is \$20 per night. Parking for Marsden Tract is 0.5 miles downstream at Carderock. To obtain a permit, call the Great Falls Fee & Permit Office at 301-767-3731.

Carderock Pavilion may be reserved by organizations by permit only. The pavilion has 26 picnic tables. Groups may reserve the pavilion for organized events from April 1 through October 31. Fees are \$150 for Mondays through Thursdays and \$250 for Fridays through Sundays and holidays. Call the Great Falls Fee & Permit Office at 301-767-3731 to make a reservation.

Fishing is permitted in accordance with state regulations. For more information, contact the Maryland Department of Natural Resources at 301-898-9724 or the District of Columbia Department of Health at 202-535-2260.

Horseback riding is another way to enjoy the canal. Please see page 8 for additional information.

Hunting and camping in the park to establish a hunting base is prohibited in the park. Crossing park lands to access adjacent hunting areas with unloaded weapons is permitted in designated areas. For more information, visit the park website at www.nps.gov/choh or call park headquarters at 301-739-4200.

Ice Skating is at your own risk and prohibited where closed by signage. Never skate alone.

Swimming is not permitted in the canal or in the Potomac River bordering the District of Columbia and Montgomery County, Md. Swimming is not recommended in other areas of the river.

Whichever activity you enjoy on the canal, bring water and exercise caution to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience.

See pages 6 and 7 for a listing of all campsites, facilities, and access points.



Camping along the C&O Canal is just one way to enjoy the park. Photo of Antietam Campground.

C&O Canal Recreational Opportunities by Milepost

*Commercial
services are
subject to
change*



Bike Repairs



Boat Ramp



Canoe Ramp



Boat/Bike Rental



Fee Charged



Food



Groceries



Parking



Public Phone



Picnic Table



RV / Tent Camping

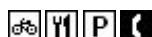


Tent Camping only



Visitor Center

0.1 Thompson Boat House



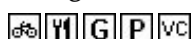
30.5 Chisel Branch – parking 0.3 mile upstream at Edward's Ferry



50.3 Bald Eagle Island – parking 1.5 mile upstream at Lander



0.4 Georgetown



30.8 Edward's Ferry



50.8 Lander



3.1 Fletchers Cove



34.4 Turtle Run – parking 1.1 mile upstream at Whites Ferry



55.0 Brunswick



10.5 Carderock



60.0 Sandy Hook – parking 4.9 miles upstream at Dargan Bend



11.0 Marsden Tract – group camp-ground permit required. Parking 0.5 mile downstream at Carderock.



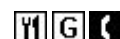
35.5 Whites Ferry



38.2 Marble Quarry – parking 2.7 miles downstream at Whites Ferry



60.8 Harpers Ferry – parking 4.1 miles upstream at Dargan Bend



14.3 Great Falls



42.2 Monocacy Aqueduct



62.9 Huckleberry Hill – parking 2.0 miles upstream at Dargan Bend



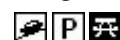
16.6 Swains Lock



42.5 Indian Flats – parking 0.3 mile downstream at Monocacy Aqueduct



64.9 Dargan Bend



22.8 Seneca



69.6 Antietam Creek



26.1 Horsepen Branch – parking 1.1 mile upstream at Sycamore Landing



44.6 Nolands Ferry



72.7 Lock 38 / Sharpsburg



27.2 Sycamore Landing



47.6 Calico Rocks – parking 0.5 mile upstream at Point of Rocks



75.2 Killiansburg Cave – parking 1.4 mile upstream at Snyders Landing



48.2 Point of Rocks



C&O Canal Recreational Opportunities by Milepost

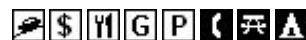
76.6 Snyders Landing



113.8 Big Pool



156.1 Paw Paw



79.2 Horseshoe Bend – parking 1.7 mile upstream at Taylors Landing



116.0 Licking Creek Aqueduct – parking 0.7 mile upstream, adjacent to Indian Springs exit off I-70



157.4 Purslane Run – parking 1.3 mile downstream at Paw Paw



80.9 Taylors Landing



120.6 Little Pool – parking 3.9 miles upstream at Little Tonoloway



162.1 Town Creek



82.7 Big Woods – parking 1.8 mile downstream at Taylors Landing



164.8 Potomac Forks – parking 1.9 mile upstream at Oldtown



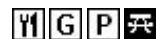
85.5 Big Slackwater



124.0 Hancock



166.7 Oldtown (Battie-Mixon)



88.1 McMahons Mill



124.5 Little Tonoloway



169.1 Pigmans Ferry – parking 2.4 miles downstream at Oldtown



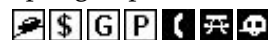
90.9 Opequon Junction – parking 2.8 miles downstream at McMahons Mill



129.9 Leopards Mill – parking 0.8 mile up- stream at Cohill Station.



173.3 Spring Gap



95.2 Cumberland Valley – parking 4.6 miles upstream at Williamsport



130.7 Cohill Station



175.3 Irons Mountain – parking 0.2 mile upstream at North Branch



99.8 Williamsport



133.6 Cacapon Junction – parking 2.9 miles downstream at Cohill Station



175.5 North Branch / Lock 74



101.2 Jordan Junction – parking 1.6 mile downstream at Williamsport



139.2 Indigo Neck – parking 1.7 mile upstream at Fifteenmile Creek



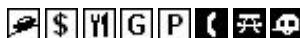
180.1 Evitts Creek – parking 3.1 miles upstream at Cumberland



109.0 Four Locks



140.9 Fifteenmile Creek



184.5 Cumberland / Canal Terminus



110.0 North Mountain – parking 0.4 mile upstream at McCoys Ferry



144.5 Devils Alley – parking 3.6 miles downstream at Fifteenmile Creek



110.4 McCoys Ferry



149.4 Stickpile Hill – parking 6.7 miles upstream at Paw Paw



112.4 Fort Frederick State Park



154.1 Sorrel Ridge – parking 2.0 miles upstream at Paw Paw



**In case of an emergency,
call**

911 or 1-866-677-6677

Visitor Centers & Information

Georgetown Visitor Center (Mile 0.04)

The visitor center is being renovated and is temporarily closed.

Call the visitor center for more information.

1057 Thomas Jefferson Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007 • 202-653-5190

Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center (Mile 14.3)

Open daily 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Entrance fees: \$3 per person; \$5 per vehicle;

\$20 annual pass. Also available for purchase at the entrance station:

National Park Pass, Golden Age and Golden Access Passports

11710 MacArthur Boulevard, Potomac, Maryland 20854 • 301-767-3714

Brunswick Visitor Center (Mile 50.8)

Open Thursdays & Fridays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and

Sundays 1 to 4 p.m. Visitor center shares space with the Brunswick Railroad Museum.

40 West Potomac Street, Brunswick, Maryland 21716 • 301-582-0813

Williamsport Visitor Center (Mile 99.8)

Open Wednesdays – Sundays 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

205 West Potomac Street, Williamsport, Maryland 21795 • 301-582-0813

Hancock Visitor Center (Mile 124.0)

Closed during winter season

326 E. Main Street, Hancock, Maryland 21750 • 301-678-5463

Cumberland Visitor Center (Mile 184.5)

Open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Western Maryland Station, 13 Canal Street, Cumberland, Maryland 21502 • 301-722-8226

Park Headquarters

Open Mondays - Fridays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Closed holidays.

1850 Dual Highway, Suite 100, Hagerstown, Maryland 21740 • 301-739-4200

In case of an emergency, call 911 or 1-866-677-6677

Towpath Detours

Throughout the life of the C&O Canal, floods, ice, low water, and other hazards made the towpath vulnerable. Today, two areas particularly susceptible to erosion are now unsafe or completely missing, making detours around these areas necessary.

Widewater (Mile 13.0 to 13.6)

Use Berma Road between Old Anglers Inn and the stop lock above Lock 15 (Mile 13.6).

Big Slackwater (Mile 84.5 to Mile 88.1)

Detour roads are narrow and steep in places. Use caution.

- Eastbound: Pass the old mill, onto Avis Mill Road. Turn right onto Dellinger Road. Turn right onto Dam 4 Road. Access the towpath via the dry canal bed at the bottom of the hill. Turn left onto the towpath to continue east.
- Westbound: Exit the towpath and turn right onto Dam 4 Road. Turn left onto Dellinger Road. Turn left onto Avis Mill Road. Access the towpath just past the old mill. Turn right onto the towpath to continue west.

Biking Regulations

- Motorized vehicles are prohibited on the towpath and trails.
- Ride single file; maximum speed of 15 MPH.
- Helmets are required in accordance with county ordinances; helmets are required for bikers under the age of 16.
- Sound-producing device must be sounded when approaching within 100 feet of other towpath users.
- Yield right-of-way to all pedestrians and horses.
- Walk bike over aqueducts and through the Paw Paw Tunnel.

Horseback Regulations

- Horseback riding is permitted on the towpath from Swains Lock (mile 16.6) to the Offutt Street crossing at Candoc (mile 181.8) in Cumberland.
- Horses are prohibited through the Paw Paw Tunnel—use the Tunnel Hill Trail.
- Riders may not exceed a slow trot.
- Dismount and walk horses across aqueducts; horses are prohibited on wooden footbridges, which are not designed to carry their weight.
- Remove all manure.
- Grazing is prohibited in the park. Feed for horses must be carried by the group.
- Watering, cleaning, or tethering horses near park wells is prohibited.
- Watering is permitted at public river access points (boat ramps).
- Access from private property is prohibited.
- Trail-rider camping is permitted at hiker-biker campsites with a limit of six persons, four horses, and one night per visit per site.
- Tether horses at the furthestmost portion of the campsite away from the tent and picnic table locations.
- Horse trailers are not allowed in drive-in camping areas. May use boat ramp parking lots.

Remember . . .

- Park in designated areas only.
- Motor vehicles are prohibited on towpath and trails.
- The park is closed at dark with the exception of the towpath from Seneca to Cumberland and designated camping areas.
- The park is a Trash Free Park; trash bags are available; take your trash with you when you leave the park.
- Pets must be leashed (not to exceed six feet) or caged at all times.
- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited in the park.

Planning Your Visit:

Tidewater Lock (Mile 0) to Seven Locks (Mile 9.5)

Points of Interest Along the Towpath

- Mile 0.0 - Tidewater Lock - a concrete marker designates the beginning of the canal.
- Mile 0.3 - a national historical marker for the canal.
- Mile 0.4 - Georgetown Visitor Center and the site of a bust commemorating Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas and his 1954 hike that saved the canal from being paved as a parkway. The visitor center is being renovated. Call for hours of operation (202) 653-5190.
- Mile 1.0 - the remains of the Alexandria Aqueduct which once connected the C&O Canal to a canal in Virginia, leading to the port of Alexandria.
- Mile 1.5 - connection to the Capital Crescent Trail - old B&O Railroad spur to Bethesda.
- Mile 2.3 - Inclined Plane - built to lower boats directly into the Potomac River to by-pass the four locks leading to the Rock Creek basin.
- Mile 3.2 - Fletchers Cove and the Abner Cloud House - rent canoes, flatboats, and bikes at the boathouse at Fletchers Cove. The Abner Cloud House, built in 1801, is one of the oldest buildings along the canal.
- Mile 5.6 - visit the site, near Lock 6, where President John Quincy Adams broke ground for the C&O Canal on July 4, 1828.
- Mile 7.6 - Clara Barton House and Glen Echo Park - these two National Park Service sites are about a half-mile from the towpath.
- Mile 8.4 to 9.5 Seven Locks - seven different locks are located in this mile of canal. The Potomac Conservancy operates Lockhouse 8 River Center which is open most Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Activities begin at the **Georgetown Visitor Center**. All activities are free unless otherwise stated. Additional activities may be planned. See page 8 for phone and address info.

Saturday, March 18

9 a.m. to noon

Canal Clean-up

The park is in need of volunteers willing to help park staff to clean debris from the canal and towpath, paint the canal boat, and spruce up the general area. All supplies will be provided.

Sat., April 15 & Sun., May 21

12:15-1:15 p.m.

Alley Crawl

Take a stroll through Georgetown's back streets with a park ranger to learn about the history of past residents.

Sun., April 16 & Sat. May 27

12:15-1:45 p.m.

Scandals, Scoundrels & Scallywags

Hear about nightlife, crime, and social disorder in 19th century Georgetown as you walk the streets with a reenactor portraying DC Policeman Ernest Brown.

Sat., April 22 & Sat. April 29

12:1-30 p.m.

Canal Kids

Kids, ages 5-10, are invited to join a park ranger to see and hear what life was like for kids who lived on the canal in the 19th century.

Sunday, April 23, noon to 4 p.m.

Kids Fishing Day

The National Park Service is partnering with others to provide kids with an introduction to fishing. Free instruction will take place with all the equipment provided. Kids can also pet a sturgeon (fish) and participate in other activities. Reservations required for fishing lessons. Call 202-653-5190.

Sun., April 30

12:15-1:15 p.m.

Black Georgetown Walk

Join a ranger-led walk to sites associated with Georgetown's African-American history.

Sat., May 6 & May 20

12:15-1:15 p.m.

The Port of Georgetown

Join a guided walk along the Potomac River and C&O Canal.



Enjoy a leisurely mule-drawn canal boat ride on the Georgetown
See page 2 for details.

Georgetown had been a port for more than 150 years when the canal was completed, but trade resulting from canal transportation boosted the town's economy. Countless tons of coal, flour, and lumber flowed into Georgetown, and the water-power furnished by the canal furthered industrial growth. During the canal's heyday, canal boats often got caught in "traffic-jams" up to five-miles long, sometimes waiting several days to unload their goods in Georgetown.

Sun., May 7

12:15-1:30 p.m.

Georgetown in the Civil War

During this walk in Georgetown, a park ranger will explain how the nation's bloodiest war affected friendships and fortunes in this divided border town.

Saturday, May 13

12:15-1:15 p.m.

A Very Retail Georgetown

A park ranger will relate the history of shopping in Georgetown from colonial days to the present.

Sunday, May 14

12:15-2 p.m.

Herring Hill

This guided walk will explore streets associated with Georgetown's African-American history.

Sun., May 28

12:45-1:15 p.m.

Tools of the Trade

Join a canal worker for a look at the tools used to build the canal.

Planning Your Visit:

Seven Locks (Mile 9.5) to Monocacy River (Mile 31.9)

Points of Interest Along the Towpath

- Mile 9.9 through Mile 13.8 - Billy Goat Trail: a series of three trails make up the Billy Goat Trail, intersecting the towpath in several locations. Section A is very strenuous. Call the Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center at 301-767-3714 for more information.
- Mile 13.6 through 14.4 - Six Locks: in less than a mile, these six locks were required to drop canal boats 41 feet around the Great Falls.
- Mile 14.4 - Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center - open daily 9:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Trails in the area lead to the remains of the Maryland Gold Mine which operated in the area late 19th and early 20th centuries.
- Mile 22.8 - Seneca Creek Aqueduct: one of 11 stone aqueducts along the C&O Canal and Rileys Lockhouse - Open most Sat. & Sun. beginning Sept. 18 from 1 to 4. Girl Scouts, dressed in period clothing, will lead tours of Rileys Lockhouse and demonstrate tasks.
- Mile 31.9 - Broad Run Trunk: first constructed as a double culvert for Broad Run, this was latter converted into an aqueduct of sorts, supported by a wooden trunk.
- Mile 35.5 - Whites Ferry: the last operating ferry on the Potomac River.
- Mile 42.2 - Monocacy Aqueduct - with its seven support arches, it is the largest of the 11 stone aqueducts.



Activities begin at the **Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center**. An entrance fee is charged. All activities are free unless otherwise stated. Additional activities may be planned. Call the visitor center for more information. See page 8 for telephone and address info.

First & last Wed. of each month & Every Sat. of each month
10 a.m. to noon

Sights and Sounds of the Season

Join volunteer naturalists to explore the ever-changing seasons near Great Falls, MD. Not handicapped accessible.

Sat. & Sun. thru March
1:30 p.m. ending times varies
Ranger's Choice

Join a park ranger for a demo, talk or walk to learn more about the park's resources. Call or stop by the visitor center on the day of the program to find out the Ranger's choice for the day. Program lengths will vary. Some programs handicapped accessible.

Sat. & Sun. thru March, 1 to 4 p.m.
Rileys Lockhouse Tours

Girl Scouts, dressed in period clothing, will lead tours of Rileys Lockhouse and demonstrate tasks. The lockhouse is located at the end of Rileys Lock Road (about 9 miles west of Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center), off Rte. 190 in Seneca, MD. Not handicapped accessible.

Lock Demonstrations
Wed. thru Fridays begin April 5
2 to 2:30 p.m.
Sat. and Sun. begin April 1
1:30 to 2 p.m.

Observe workings of historic Lock 20 and find out about the significance of the C&O Canal in the vision to develop a nation.

Sun., May 28, 1 to 4 p.m.
Meet the Author

Meet photographer and author Dorothy Camagna. Copies of her new book, *The C&O Canal: Great National Project to National Historical Park*, will be available for sale and signing.



A spectacular demonstration of the river's power is displayed where the Potomac makes its sharpest drop at Great Falls near Potomac, Md. The river surges through narrow chutes and spills over huge rocks, then cuts deep into the bedrock below the falls, creating Mather Gorge. Six locks were required to drop canal boats 41 feet in less than a mile. At the uppermost lock, the lockkeeper's house built in 1829 was enlarged twice by 1831. With the expansion, it was known as Crommelin House, a popular hotel operating through the 19th century. Today, it houses the Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center.

River Center at Lockhouse 8
Activities:

For more info, contact
Heather Montgomery
montgomery@potomac.org

Saturday, April 22, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Earth Day Celebration
Children's activities, wildflower walk, music.

Sat., May 6, 8-10 a.m.
Birds in Migration Hike

Sat. May 20, 1-2 p.m.
Children's Bug Walk

Sun., May 21 & June 11, 4-5 p.m.
Voices of the River: Washington
Folklore Society

Planning Your Visit:

Monocacy (Mile 31.9) to Ft. Frederick (Mile 112.1)

Points of Interest Along the Towpath

- Mile 48.4 - Point of Rocks: canal construction halted for 4 years here in a right-of-way dispute with the railroad. The railroad tunneled through the mountain, but after the canal operation ceased, the railroad laid track over the canal bed.
- Mile 50.9 - Lander Lockhouse (Lockhouse 29)
- Mile 51.5 - Catoctin Aqueduct: sometimes referred as the "Swayback Aqueduct" due to sag in the middle caused by its elliptical arch. The aqueduct collapsed in the 1970s.
- Mile 55.0 - Brunswick: a short walk across the parking lot and around the block is the Brunswick Museum and visitor center filled with exhibits about the canal, railroad, and community. Open: Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Sundays 1 to 4 p.m.
- Mile 60.7 - Harpers Ferry: across the footbridge is Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.
- Mile 69.4 - Antietam Creek Aqueduct: one of eleven aqueducts along the canal.
- Mile 84.6 - Stop Gate: the winch house was used to raise and lower beams to control water in the canal.
- Mile 88.1 - McMahon's Mill: originally constructed as a grist mill and later used to generate electricity.
- Mile 99.6 - Cushwa Basin and Conococheague Aqueduct. Inside the historic Cushwa Warehouse is the Williamsport Visitor Center, open Wednesday through Sunday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Just beyond the basin is the Conococheague Aqueduct.
- Mile 108.8 through 109 - Four Locks: this series of locks allowed boats to cut across the bend rather than follow the river. Several buildings from the historic community still remain.
- Mile 112.1 - Fort Frederick Park: the fort is about 0.3 mile from the towpath.



Activities are organized by the **Williamsport Visitor Center**. All activities are free unless otherwise stated. Additional activities may be planned. Call the visitor center for more information. See page 8 for telephone and address info.

Sat., April 29,

7-8 p.m

Founding Fathers of the National Park

Celebrate National Parks Week by joining a park ranger for an evening slide program on the founding of the National Park Service leading up to the creation of the C&O Canal National Historical Park. Call 301-582-0813 for location information.

Did you know...between Mile 60 and Mile 61 at the junction of the Shenandoah and Potomac rivers, lies the picturesque town of Harpers Ferry. The U.S. government purchased land here in 1796 to take advantage of the natural waterpower, building an armory with its own canal and dam. This dam later became part of the C&O Canal system as Dam No. 3. Harpers Ferry is perhaps most well-known for an event occurring at the armory in 1859 when John Brown unsuccessfully raided the federal armory. John Cook, a lock tender for Lock 33, conspired with Brown by gathering information for the attack. Two months after the attack, Cook and three other conspirators were executed. Cook has the dubious distinction of being the only lockkeeper along the canal ever hung for treason.



Canal boats at Cushwa Basin in Williamsport. Date of photo circa early 1900s.

Halfway between Georgetown and Cumberland, Williamsport was the quintessential canal town. Coal helped make it so: much of the coal loaded at Cumberland was destined for two Williamsport dealers, Cushwa and Steffey & Findlay. The construction of the canal proved a mixed blessing, as a cholera epidemic migrated upstream to Williamsport in 1832. Two years later, rival Irish workers, numbering perhaps 1,000, clashed near the town in bloody battles that left several dead. Before the canal came, Williamsport had long been a lively river trading port. Today, historic sections of Williamsport retain the atmosphere of the old canal town.



McMahon's Mill (Mile 88.1)

Planning Your Visit:

Ft. Frederick (Mile 112.1) to Cumberland (Mile 184.5)

Points of Interest Along the Towpath

- Mile 116.1 - Licking Creek Aqueduct: one of eleven stone aqueducts along the C&O Canal.
- Mile 123 Tonoloway Creek Aqueduct: one of eleven stone aqueducts along the C&O Canal.
- Mile 127.4 Round Top Cement Mill: the arches along the rock face were limestone kilns used to produce cement.
- Mile 136.6 Sideling Hill Creek Aqueduct: one of eleven stone aqueducts along the canal.
- Mile 140.9 Fifteenmile Creek Aqueduct: one of eleven stone aqueducts along the canal.
- Mile 154.5 Lock 63 1/3 and Lock 64 2/3: when building the canal, the company decided that only two locks were needed instead of the three planned. Instead of renumbering locks upstream, they numbered these two locks with fractions and skipped Lock 65.
- Mile 155.2 -155.8 Paw Paw Tunnel: the canal company chose to tunnel through a mountain for 3,118 feet to save the extra 5 miles of building the canal around the riverbends.
- Mile 162.4 Town Creek Aqueduct: one of eleven stone aqueducts along the C&O Canal.
- Mile 166.7 Lockhouse 70: open Saturdays and Sundays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Mile 175.7 Lockhouse 75: open Saturdays and Sundays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Mile 180.7 Evitts Creek Aqueduct: one of eleven stone aqueducts along the C&O Canal.
- Mile 184.5 Canal Terminus: from the Visitor Center, follow the gray bricks from the plaza to the towpath. The Cumberland Visitor Center is open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Activities listed below are organized by the **Cumberland Visitor Center**. All activities are free unless otherwise stated. Additional activities may be planned. Call the visitor center for more information. See page 8 for telephone and address info.

Saturdays May 27-Sept. 2 **Paw-Paw Tunnel Tours (Mile 155)** **2 p.m.**

Come tour the largest structure along the length of the C&O Canal. The Paw Paw Tunnel was perhaps the most difficult to build. Learn the history surrounding this great architectural feature. The Paw Paw Tunnel is the largest structure along the length of the C&O Canal was perhaps the most difficult to build.

Round Top Cement Mill (Mile 127.4)

Round Top Cement Mill played a part during the construction period of the C&O Canal and was a regular shipper on the canal during its operating life. The "Setter" brand cement produced at Round Top was a quick hardening hydraulic cement used in the final third of the canal's construction. This cement was used in the final third of the canal's construction and the Cabin John Bridge and the Washington Monument.

Fifteenmile Creek Aqueduct (Mile 140.9)

Fifteenmile Creek Aqueduct is a beautiful example of the stone masons' skill in constructing the eleven aqueducts along the C&O Canal. The Fifteenmile Creek Aqueduct, a single-arch bridge, was built beginning in 1838 of flintstone from a quarry near Sideling Hill. It remains in good condition today.



The north or downstream entrance to the Paw Paw Tunnel. (Mile 155)

Cumberland, Md., was in the unique position of being the western terminus of the C&O Canal, a stop on the B&O Railroad, and the eastern terminus of the Cumberland Road. In the mid-19th century it was the center of the eastern coal trade and the most important trading city between tide-water and the Ohio River – the "Queen City of the Alleghenies." Not only did the canal's main cargo originate in Cumberland, but the town's boat yards also turned out most of the canal boats. Over the years Cumberland built a solid economic base and, unlike other canal towns, prospered after the canal was gone.



Round Top Cement Mill (Mile 127.4)